

Please add the following claims 12-22:

1 12. An isolated polynucleotide comprising:
(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide having histone deacetylase activity, wherein the polypeptide has an amino acid sequence of at least 95% sequence identity, based on the Clustal method of alignment with ~~multiple alignment default parameters of GAP PENALTY=10 and GAP LENGTH PENALTY=10~~, and pairwise alignment default parameters of KTUPLE=1, GAP PENALTY=3, WINDOW=5 and DIAGONALS SAVED=5, when compared to SEQ ID NO:4, or ^{or (a)}
(b) a complement of the nucleotide sequence, wherein the complement and the nucleotide sequence consist of the same number of nucleotides and are 100% complementary.

2 13. The polynucleotide of Claim 12, wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:4.

3 14. The polynucleotide of Claim 12, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:3.

4 15. A vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 12.

5 16. A recombinant DNA construct comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 12 operably linked to at least one regulatory sequence.

6 17. A method for transforming a cell, comprising transforming a cell with the polynucleotide of Claim 12.

7 18. A cell comprising the recombinant DNA construct of Claim 16.

19. A method for producing a plant comprising transforming a plant cell with the polynucleotide of Claim 12 and regenerating a plant from the transformed plant cell.

20. A plant comprising the recombinant DNA construct of Claim 16.

21. A seed comprising the recombinant DNA construct of Claim 16.

3 22. A method of altering the level of expression of a histone deacetylase in a host cell comprising: (a) transforming a host cell with the recombinant DNA construct of Claim 16; and (b) growing the transformed host cell under conditions that are suitable for expression of the recombinant DNA construct wherein expression of the recombinant DNA construct results in production of altered levels of the histone deacetylase in the transformed host cell.